

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 HA-05
IO-13 /090 W

-----121956 140511Z /21

R 131130Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6910
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LUBUMBASHI
AMEBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MZ, RH, CG, BE

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF BELIGIAN PILOTS SHOT DOWN OVER MOZAMBIQUE

REF: (A) 77 MAPUTO 1446 (B) KINSHASA 3529

1. BELGIAN PILOTS LEOPOLD MOUZON AND JEAN PIERRE MIBELLE WERE RELEASED APRIL 11 TO A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BELGIAN EMBASSY IN LUSAKA, WHO HAD TRAVELLED TO MAPUTO FOR THE PUBLIC CERMONY. FREEING THE TWO PILOTS WAS DESCRIBED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY. REPRESENTATIVE SHARFUDINE KHAN AT THE RELEASED AS APERSONAL ACT OF CLEMENCY OF PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL.

2. THE BELGIAN REPRESENTATIVE STATED THAT THE PRISONERS HAD NOT BEEN MINSTREATED IN MOZAMBIQUE. HE SAID THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT DEPLORED AND THE PILOTS THEMSELVES REGRETTEED INVOLVEMENT IN SANCTION BREAKING ACTIVITIES.

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3. COMMENT: AS REPORTED REF (B) THE RELEASE WAS ORDERED AFTER THE VISIT TO MAPUTO OF A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU. THE PILOTS WERE ACTUALLY RELEASED FROM MACHAVA PRISON OUTSIDE MAPUTO APRIL 6, AND LODGED IN MAPUTO'S NICEST HOTEL WHILE AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF THE BELGIAN DIPLOMAT, AND THE FORMAL CERMONY.

4. DUTCH EMBASSY PERSONNEL HAD BEEN VISITING THE PRISONERS WEEKLY AND SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE PILOTS WERE KEPT IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT GPRM AUTHORITIES PERMITTED THEM TO HAVE UNLIMITED GOODS FROM DUTCH AND BELGIAN SOURCES, INCLUDING KNIVES AND RAZOR BLADES IN THEIR CELLS, AND THERE WAS NOT MISTREATMENT.

5. THE PILOTS HAD BEEN CHARGED WITH VIOLATING MOZAMBIQUE AIR SPACE, SANCTIONS RBREAKING BEING MERCENARIES, WEAPONS SMUGGLING AND SPYING. THE LETTER THREE CHARGES WERE LATER DROPPED. THE PILOTS ADMITTED TO DUTCH OFFICIAL VIOLATING MOZAMBIQUE AIRSPACE AT LEAST 30 TIMES ON RHOESIA ZAIRE FLIGHTS.
DE PREE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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